FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

MR. S. VENKATARAMANA AIYAR (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to present the Budget Estimates for 1105. As usual I shall give a brief summary of the results of the last completed Financial year before proceeding to explain the revised estimates for the current year and the estimates for the next year.

ACTUALS OF 1103.

2. The final figures of ordinary revenue and expenditure for the last year were Rs 242·29 lakhs and Rs 218·40 lakhs respectively, resulting in a surplus of Rs 23·89 lakhs. This was an improvement on the figures of the revised estimates which anticipated a surplus of Rs 17·22 lakhs only. On the expenditure side, our revised estimate proved to be a very close approximation, the difference being less than a quarter of a lakh. The receipts however turned out better than the revised estimate by Rs 6·42 lakhs. The increase in revenue was chiefly under Taxes on Income (·74), Salt (1·17), Customs (·70), Forest (1·11), and Stamps (·81).

REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1104.

3. The revenue and expenditure which were estimated at Rs 239·69 and Rs 234·78 lakhs respectively in the Budget are now expected to amount to Rs 246·61 and Rs 226·94 lakhs, yielding a revenue surplus of Rs 19·67 lakhs. Larger receipts are expected under the two principal heads of revenue *viz.*, Salt (·95) and Forest (1·22). The increase under salt occurs partly under duty and partly under recoveries of charges incurred in the sale of salt. The excess under Forest is expected to be realised by larger sales of royalties and junglewood removed from the forests by Government agency. There is an increase of Rs 3·01 lakhs under Interest receipts which occurs mainly under Interest and Discount on Government of India Pro-notes and it is the result of our investment of Rs 15·22 lakhs in Government of India securities. The receipts under Buildings, Communications and Miscellaneous Public Improvements are expected to be better than the Budget Estimate by Rs 1·42 lakhs, the major portion of the increase being under 'Tolls on roads and bridges.'

4. On the expenditure side, a saving of Rs 7·84 lakhs is anticipated spread over the various major heads. The principal savings are under Education (2·76) and Buildings, Communications and Miscellaneous Public Improvements (·99). One unexpected item of expenditure which the Government had to incur during the current year deserves special mention. I refer to the expenditure on account of measures adopted to combat the plague and cholera epidemics. Cholera in an epidemic form appeared in South Travancore towards the close of 1103 and it took a virulent turn early this year. Plague also appeared on the outskirts of the Devicolam District. Prompt and vigorous measures were adopted to combat these epidemics. These measures caused the Government a sum of nearly Rs 1 lakh on the whole.

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